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INFO RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 1226  
RUEHCN/AMCONSUL CHENGDU 0752  
RUEHGX/AMCONSUL GUANGZHOU 0732  
RUEHHK/AMCONSUL HONG KONG 0870  
RUEHSH/AMCONSUL SHENYANG 0754  
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SHANGHAI 000412

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NSC FOR DENNIS WILDER

E.O. 12958: DECL: 7/5/2017  
TAGS: [PHUM KIRF](#) [PGOV CH VT](#)  
SUBJECT: SHANGHAI BISHOP JIN ON PAPAL LETTER

REF: SHANGHAI 214 AND PREVIOUS

CLASSIFIED BY: Veomayoury Baccam, Acting Section Chief,  
Political/Economic Section , U.S. Consulate Shanghai.  
REASON: 1.4 (b), (d)

11. (C) During a conversation with Poloff during Consulate's Independence Day reception on July 3, Shanghai Bishop Aloysius Jin Luxian said he was pleased by Pope Benedict XVI's June 30 letter to Chinese Catholics, which he said was the Pope's way of "extending his hand" to the Chinese government. He said, however, that the Chinese government was not happy with the letter because it did not recognize the Chinese Patriotic Catholic Association's authority and did not make any compromises on the appointment of bishops in China. He predicted that relations between the Chinese government and the Vatican would continue to be difficult and was not optimistic about prospects for reconciliation.

12. (C) He blamed State Administration for Religious Affairs (SARA) Administrator Ye Xiaowen for China's inflexible attitude and said that he was praying for Ye to be replaced at the 17th Party Congress. He added that Chinese Patriotic Catholic Association Vice Chairman Liu Bainian had little influence and said that the SARA Administrator Ye was the key person in the government on this issue.

13. (C) The fact that Bishop Jin was able to attend Consulate's reception was an indication that his health continues to be stable. He spent nearly 45 minutes at the reception, standing during the playing of the Chinese and American anthems. He had problems hearing some of Poloff's questions, but was able to converse easily and appeared to be comfortable interacting with guests.

JARRETT